

Louisiana Ornithological Society's

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Report Form

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review (to assure that all information involving an observation is accounted for). **Attach additional pages as necessary.** Please print or type. Attach photocopy of field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include complete series of photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216. (If you use this form as a computer template; please submit on archival quality = 100% cotton paper.)

1. **English and Scientific names:** Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*)
2. **Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage:** One (presumed) adult.
3. **Locality:** Cameron Par., Garner Ridge, 3 mi. W Johnsons Bayou School.
4. **Date(s) when observed:** 23 April 2005
5. **Time(s) of day when observed:** 11:55 AM-Noon
6. **Reporting observer and address:** Donna L. Dittmann & Steven W. Cardiff
435 Pecan Drive, St. Gabriel, LA 70776
7. **Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):** none.
8. **Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):** none.
9. **Light conditions:** good.
10. **Optical equipment:** both observers: Leica 10 X 42 binoculars
11. **Distance to bird(s):** as close as 75 ft.
12. **Duration of observation:** The bird flew over the road heading west and disappearing out of sight over the chenier.
13. **Habitat:** Flying over hackberry chenier woods separated by freshwater marsh and pasture.
14. **Behavior of bird/circumstances of observation:** DLD spotted the caracara and pointed it out to SWC who watched it with his binoculars while DLD grabbed her digital camera and attempted to get pictures through the car window.
15. **Description:** The caracara's distinctive shape in flight first alerted DLD to the ID; both observer's noted the overall black and white coloration: large white patches in the primaries in otherwise black wings, white face and throat with black cap, and white tail with black subterminal band. We did not see the bird well enough to ascertain whether it might have retained

older brown feathers suggesting a first year rather than definitive adult,

16. Voice: not heard
17. Similar species and how they were eliminated: No other raptor shares noted plumage characters.
18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): Yes. Digital
photos taken by DLD; best one attached, which is not great, but certainly shows a caracara.
19. Previous experience with this species: We have seen Crested Caracara on many occasions, most frequently in Texas, but also Louisiana (several records now),
21. Identification aids:
a. at time of observation: None.
b. after observation: None.
22. This description is written from: notes made during the observation; notes made
X after the observation (from photos); and X memory.
23. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: Yes.
24. Signature of reporter: Donna Dethman
- Signature of reporter: _____
- (date) 10/14/2005 (time)



Crested Caracara LBRC 2005-17
Donna L. Dittmann